

Star BUSINESS

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Promotion of 17 bank officials as GM still undecided
STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Although the posts of 17 general managers (GM) in different government banks and financial institutions are lying vacant for a long time, the process of promotion of some bank officials to these posts is yet to be finalised by the government.

Sources said the immediate past four-party alliance government deprived the officials, who were on the promotion panel list prepared by the Bangladesh Bank, of their due elevation on political consideration.

On assumption of office by the present caretaker government, the finance ministry sent a recommendation to the Office of the Chief Adviser for promotion of the bank officials. But the recommendation has been sent back to the ministry without showing any reason.

Talking to the Daily Star one of the officials claiming to be deprived said the present government has already promoted some of the officials deprived, but it should immediately complete the promotion process, which, he hoped, would infuse dynamism into the banking sector.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance is learnt to have decided to constitute a committee to consider promotion of around 200 high officials of the state-owned banks.

The deprived officials, however, sought immediate action by such a committee to end the impasse in their promotion.

The officials concerned are Tapan Kumar Ghosh, Mustak Ahmed and Abu Ahmed Jafar Iqbal of Sonali Bank, Nur Mohammad of Janata Bank, Jebun Nahar and Masud Ahmed Khan of Agrani Bank, Abul Hasnat, Nurul Amin and Rafiuddin of Rupali Bank, Masud Ahmed Khan of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Debdas of Kormosongthan Bank and Dr Provash Chandra Roy of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.

Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank chairman reelected



Chairman

Group Captain (retd) Abu Zafar Chowdhury was reelected unopposed chairman of The Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd for three years at a meeting in Dhaka on Friday, says a press release.

Belayet Hossain has also been reelected unopposed vice-chairman of the co-operative bank.

Zafar, a freedom fighter, was a former director of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

SM Nasimul Haque, a freedom fighter and also a former Birman Bangladesh Airlines captain, was also elected director of the co-operative bank. Nasim is also a former president of Bangladesh Airlines Pilots' Association (BAPA).

Japan, Thailand expand currency swap pact

AFP, Tokyo

Japan said Tuesday it had doubled the amount of foreign currency reserves it makes available to Thailand to shield against a possible financial crisis.

Under the bilateral arrangement, Japan will now offer up to six billion dollars from its foreign exchange reserves to Thailand in the event of a currency crisis, a finance ministry statement said.

Previously it had made up to three billion dollars available in exchange for Thai baht.

Thailand for its part will continue to provide up to three billion dollars to Japan in exchange for Japanese yen if needed.

The pact is part of the Chiang Mai Initiative of bilateral currency swaps set up by Southeast Asian nations plus Japan, China and South Korea in May 2000 as part of efforts to prevent a repeat of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis.

BTRC won't issue licences to new mobile phone companies

'Mobile South Asia' confce kicks off

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

BTRC (Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission) will not issue any licence to new mobile phone operators in the country, telecoms watchdog chairman said yesterday.

Talking to reporters after the inaugural function of the two-day annual 'Mobile South Asia' conference in Dhaka, Manzurul Alam said six operators are enough for a market like Bangladesh.

He also said the six operators in the country are facing stiff competitions.

Earlier, as the two-day fourth annual 'Mobile South Asia' conference began, speakers called on the South Asian GSM operators to ensure quality services for better telecommunications and data transfer.

The operators were urged to maintain other operational codes to provide secured and sophisticated services to subscribers.

Speakers at the conference outlined the growth opportunities in the South Asian region, particularly in the countries such as Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The BTRC chairman at the conference said GSM operators



BTRC (Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission) Chairman Manzurul Alam speaks at the inaugural function of a two-day annual 'Mobile South Asia' conference in Dhaka yesterday.

should work together in providing technological support to combat crimes in the region.

Criminals and terrorists are using new technologies, he added.

Organised with the full support of The South Asian GSM Operators Forum, Mobile South Asia 2007 is an excellent opportunity to turn the region's focus to Bangladesh and the business potential available in Bangladesh's telecom market, the speakers also said.

A total of 152 telecoms experts and officials from South Asian countries joined the conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

During the two-day event, different sessions will take place highlighting the key issues of telecoms operations.

Mehboob Chowdhury, chairman of South Asia GSM Forum, Jeanine Vos, regulatory manager of GSM Association UK, S Nasrul Karim A. Ghaznavi, member (Finance) of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Min Prasad Aryal, assistant manager (Engineering Section) of Nepal Telecommunication Authority, and Samir Satchu, head of government affairs of Roshan Afghanistan, also spoke.

During the two-day event, different sessions will take place highlighting the key issues of telecoms operations.

Thus, the Malaysian oil exchange will be able to function between the working hours of the 3 time zones, a major advantage when compared to London's IPE or New York's NYMEX," the observer said.

Being strategically located in the East Asian market, Malaysia is also in the time zone between the major consumers of Northeast Asia and the major producers of the Middle East.

Thus, the Malaysian oil exchange will be able to function between the working hours of the 3 time zones, a major advantage when compared to London's IPE or New York's NYMEX," the observer said.

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